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NIAGARA COLLEGE
Applied Arts and Technology
LEARNING RESOURCE CENTRE

NIAGARA NEWS

Vol. 25 No. 10 — Friday, Feb. 10, 1995

FREE

'Between the innocent...and the unthinkable, there are still some things we have yet to imagine.'

Significant changes in education coming

By WILLY NOILES
Staff Writer

Recommendations from the Royal Commission on Learning could change the face of education in Ontario.

The five-member commission, consisting of Monique Begin, Gerry Caplan, Manisha Bharti, Avis Glaze and Dennis Murphy, released its For the Love of Learning report Jan. 26.

Among the 167 recommendations that could produce sweeping changes in Ontario's education system is the elimination of Grade 13, known as Ontario Academic Credit or OAC; opening the school system to children as young as three; a literacy guarantee test in Grade 11; a self-regulated body called the Ontario College of Teachers setting professional standards, certifying teachers every five years and accrediting teacher education programs; and destreaming from Grades 1 to 9 with specialization in Grades 10 to 12.

On Feb. 8, Minister of Education and Training Dave Cooke announced his ministry will begin development of a core curriculum, for use across the province, for junior kindergarten to the end of high school.

A province-wide report card is expected to be ready in September, 1996.

Niagara College President John Saso, who was at the Royal Commission's unveiling in Toronto, calls the report "a common sense approach to education."

Giving the report a B grade, Saso says the proposed changes are "very much in tune with the skills students need when they get to college or university."

Saso says the biggest impact on colleges will be the elimination of Grade 13. He wonders "what level of preparedness will there be for those leaving the (high school) system."

Ontario is the only Canadian province that has a fifth year of secondary school.

Joan Hastings-Dove, faculty representative on the college's Board of Governors, says the elimination of Grade 13 could have a positive effect on colleges.

"I sense that something's going to come our way because of that. What that means remains to be seen."

Doug Rogers, an English instructor at the Hospitality and Tourism Centre in Niagara Falls, says the "vast majority of students" are ready for college after Grade 12. "Those who have a clear idea of what they want to do are impatient to get on (to college)," he says.

Eliminating OACs will "reduce the cost" allowing savings to be passed on to extending full-time schooling to three year olds.

"I'm really delighted with that," Rogers says. "School for three year olds is a terrific idea."

Many European countries already have schooling beginning at three years, Rogers adds.

Hastings-Dove says extending schooling to three year olds could be important to the college's Early Childhood Education program.

David Schleich, vice-president, academic, agrees. "Certainly there are significant implications for our early childhood education graduates in terms of professional accreditation within this new school-readiness panel in the elementary schools."

Hastings-Dove says "We're going to start to work much more closely with the high school system...developing learning outcomes." A core curriculum developed with input from the colleges would make the transfer from high school to college much easier, she says.

Hastings-Dove is also the College Standards and Accreditation Council's liaison on the Schools Colleges Committee which resulted from a mandate review of community colleges called Vision 2000 from 1988 to 1990. She says "now that the Royal Commission is in place, we have a much clearer focus.

"It's going to be an exciting time in the next two years."

Schleich says he looks forward to the challenge. "Certainly the changes, which will occur in the next few years in the primary and secondary panels of our education system, will impact significantly on college education in the very near future. We will have to be really, really ready."

The commission was established May 5, 1993 and listened to 1,400 submissions in 27 centres across the province and examined an additional 3,600 presentations.

Minister without Portfolio in Education Steve Owens, left, met with Niagara Falls MPP Margaret Harrington and Ontario Public School Teachers' Federation President Reg Ferland Feb. 1.

Photo by Willy Noiles

Educational reforms won't happen overnight

By WILLY NOILES
Staff Writer

Recommendations from the Royal Commission on Learning will not be legislated overnight says Ontario's Minister without Portfolio in Education and Training.

"It's not something we can magically snap our fingers and do," Steve Owens, Scarborough-Centre MPP, told the Niagara South branch of the Ontario Public School Teachers' Federation Feb. 1. "The reality is there is going to need to be a transition period."

The provincial government is "now in the process of reviewing the commission's advice," Owens said.

No active changes to education, which is "one of our strongest foundations," are likely without the participation of teachers, Owens said.

But he warns "if we do not change, the condition will continue to erode."

The ministry of education and training is expected to announce the recommendations it will bring to the provincial legislature over the next few months. "This is an historical phase for our (educational) system," he said.

One recommendation the minister without portfolio said he likes is parental participation in school-community councils.

Continued on Page 2

Niagara assists in Thailand centre

By GORDANA PIRKER
Staff Writer

Thailand's growing economy is attracting industrial appeal and with the help of Niagara College, enviromental issues are becoming an international affair.

Niagara College and St. Catharines' Brock University joined forces last year to set up a centre for industrial and environmental training at the Burapha University in Thailand.

Since then, Jon Ogryzlo, the college's general manager for the Centre of Environmental Training, and David Taylor, director of the Business Studies Division, visited Burapha University in July and August to further assist in setting up the Centre for Industrial Environmental Training (CIET) program, which includes a number of human resource development activities.

JON OGRYZLO

Ogryzlo said because of the tremendous industrial growth in Thailand, a number of challenges have been created.

"Thailand is mostly rural, but you're surprised with all the industrial development."

He said with the rapid growth Thailand is facing there is a need for skilled labor and labor management skills.

"There is a diverse industrial combination along the Pacific rim but there is a downside to Thailand even though they are prospering along the seaboard," said Ogryzlo.

Continued on Page 2

Niagara sets up new program in Thailand

Continued from page 1.

Poverty, drug trade and prostitution are some of the problems northern Thailand faces; however, Ogryzlo said the Thai people deal with their struggles, as foreigners continue to invest.

He said the people are "very friendly" and show great respect toward Thailand's royal family, while maintaining their strong culture. Over 94 per cent of the country is Buddist.

With rapid growth within their country, Thailand is facing major enviromental problems. That's where Niagara and Brock come in.

"Bangkok did not have a proper infraustructure," said Ogryzlo.

The CEIT has five focuses, Ogryzlo said and the college is involved with one project involving about one-third of the budget.

David Brown, the director of Enviromental policy at Brock University, is working with the municipalities in Thailand to plan and organize waste sites.

In the course of the four-year project, Thai students will come to Brock to enrol in the university's two-year Biology and Chemistry programs.

In April, Ogryzlo said a team of either two professors or management personnel from the centre will visit the college to see how seminars are set up.

"They will get to view how we do partnerships here. And how we set up joint ventures through government," he said.

Ogryzlo added the importance of Thai officials visiting is to see, "how we operate here."

With the training received from the centre, the Burapha University will eventually do its own training and become active in enviromental issues.

Niagara is also responsible for the Industrial Skills Training Program for Women.

Ogryzlo said many of the women need the necessary skills to obtain employment in the newly developed industries. Many of the women come from rural regions and are mostly affected by the changes in newly developed industries.

Five Thai members of the centre's advisory board will visit for three weeks for consulation with faculty and students in Brock's Women's Studies program and Niagara College's Access Program.

Asked how he feels about international projects, Ogryzlo said, "It's an exciting opportunity for me. We get to duplicate what we have established here at the college in another country."

Ogryzlo said the college is looking at a number of other projects. Mexico and China, he said, may be the next.

"We are always open to opportunites."

If education not changed, 'the condition will erode'

Continued from page 1.

"We...need to nurture (parental involvement.) Their input can only benefit teachers...and administrators."

The need for public input is "critical," he said.

In an exclusive interview after the meeting, Owens said he sees "a strengthening of the link" between secondary schools and colleges.

"Niagara College is an excellent school" which can provide the training students need for employment, he said.

Colleges will be involved in future discussions about the commission's recommendations, he said.

"(Colleges) should be able to provide meaningful advice."

One recommendation widely misinterpreted, Owens said, is the level of involvement parents and students will have on teachers. The recommendation is for parents and students to serve in an "advisory position."

Owens dismisses the idea of a formal parent and student-teacher review as impractical.

"There are just too many impediments and (it's) something we don't see as a viable option."

Although no concrete guarantees were made, Owens promised teachers will be treated fairly. "Teachers are recognized as a valuable resource in this province."

SAC election kits available

Students can pick up Student Administrative Council election nomination kits in Merritt 103 on Monday, Feb. 13. Complete nomination information must be returned by 4 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 20.

The Niagara News presents its First Annual

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Students help sell Dream House Draw

'There are only 1,200 tickets left' — Howe

By JOHN SAVOIE
Staff Writer

Niagara College marketing students are using their expertise to organize a community event to raise money for the Club Roma expansion and seniors club.

Marketing students have donated their time and skills in building and implementing a sales plan for the Dream House Draw which will be held on April 22.

About 40 students worked as volunteers designing posters, billboards and brochures, says Malcolm Howe, co-ordinator of the marketing program in Business Administration.

Local carpenters, painters, and decorators have all donated their time in constructing a 2,066 square-foot home worth about $230,000. All materials were donated by local businesses.

The home, located across from Club Roma at 138 Vansickle Rd. in St. Catharines, is open for viewing on Sundays from 1 to 5 p.m.

Since 1963, Club Roma members have devoted their time and effort towards the community. As a non-profit, community organization, annual donations are made to charities: Canadian Red Cross, Heart and Stroke Foundation, St. Catharines General Hosptital, Kristen French Foundation, Canadian Cancer Society and the Canadian Arthritis Foundation.

Tickets for the Dream House are available by calling the Dream House Hotline at (905) 735-2211, 384-9760, 382-2383 at ext. 7500. Tickets may also be purchased during open house hours.

"There are only 1,200 tickets left," says Howe.

Tickets are $100 each and only 3,000 will be sold.

Standing on the staircase of Club Roma's Dream House are, at left, Sam Greco, chairman of the Dream House ticket sales, Melinda Naso and Jacqueline Gagnon, both second-year Niagara College marketing students.

Photo by John Savoie

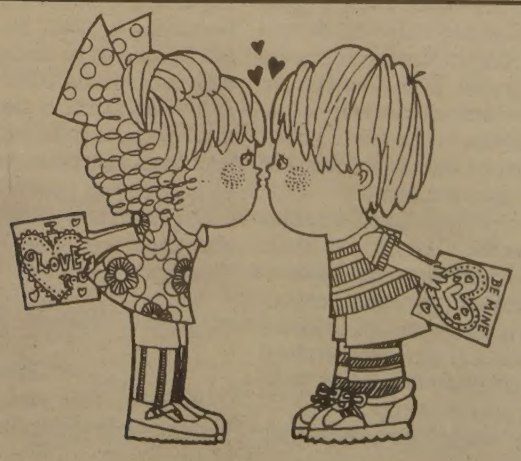
Correction

In the Feb. 3, 1995 edition (Vol. 25, No. 9) of the Niagara News, an information logo was incorrectly placed upside down. The logo belongs to the Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Club of Niagara College.

On Page 8, the name Linda Shuart, vice-president social of the Student Administrative Council, was omitted from the story on the Orientation committee. She is a member of the committee.

We regret any embarrassment these errors may have caused.

It is the policy of this newspaper to correct factual errors.



Academic scholarship offered

By GORDANA PIRKER
Staff Writer

Local entrepreneurs are getting some financial help from local accountants.

Padgett Business Services, an accounting firm in Niagara Falls, is offering a $500 academic scholarship to the son or daughter of an independent business owner.

The accounting firm, which has more than 80 offices in Canada and 250 in the United States, offers more than $25,000 in scholarship monies.

Gerry Lacroix, franchise owner of the financial reporting and tax planning service for small business, said the scholarship offer is open to an individual whose parents own a small business.

"The small business sector is not well served," said Lacroix. "All finances by owners generally go towards their business, setting it up."

Lacroix said his company is interested in helping out the small business owners who are often overlooked and do not get the benefits larger businesses do.

All that is required from applicants is information on their parents' business, number of employees and graduation date of the student. The grade-point average of the student is considered part of the final decision.

Entry deadline for the scholarship is March 1, 1995 and the winner will be announced in May. Applications can be picked up at Padgett Business Services, 6260 Colborne St., Niagara Falls, Ont.

Heritage week brings peninsula together

By MICHAEL WALES
Staff Writer

The week of Feb. 20 has been declared Heritage Week in Ontario.

Heritage Week will be celebrated in the Niagara area with events and displays at the Pelham Public Library, under the direction of Tony Whelan, the Niagara Regional Historical Council's liaison officer.

Whelan says the display will open with a "kick-off day" at the Pelham Library on Feb. 18 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

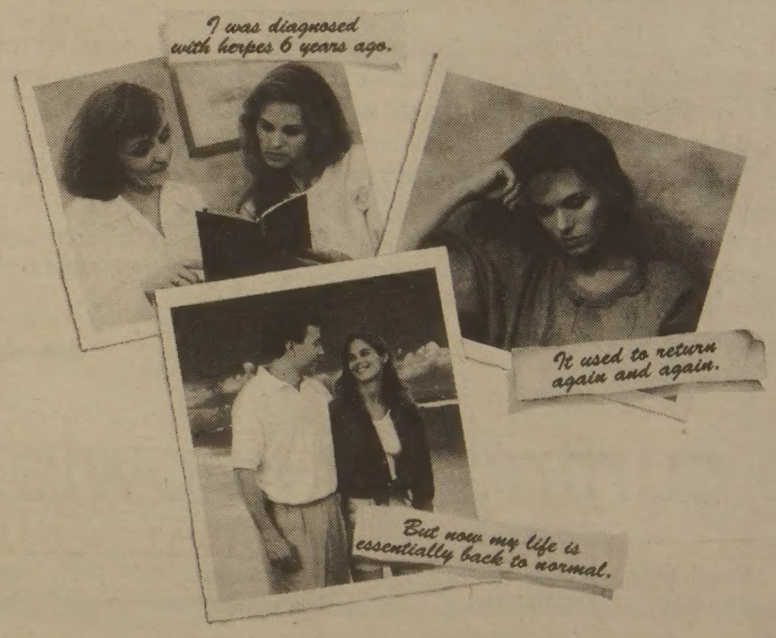
The day will include more than 40 displays by such groups as local architectural conservation committees, a group from Fort George who will appear in 1812 militia dress, the Six Nations native group and local Black groups, who are also celebrating Black History month in Ontario.

"We want to bring heritage groups from around the peninsula under one roof," says Whelan.

Whelan, who has played organizational roles in Heritage Week events for the past five years, says local history isn't taught as much as it should be in schools, even though the Niagara Peninsula enjoys a rich history with settlements dating back as far as 1780. "We're trying to correct that," he says. "We want to get the young people involved."

Anyone with questions concerning Heritage Week or the displays at the Pelham Library can contact Whelan at 735-3949.

You *can* take control of genital herpes



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CALL 1-800-HSV-FACS
1-800-478-3227

And consult your physician

EDITORIAL PAGE

The Niagara News is a practical lab for the **Journalism-Print** program, covering the college community and other areas of interest. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the management of the Niagara News or the administration of Niagara College. P.O. Box 1005, 300 Woodlawn Rd., Ontario L3B 5S2. Phone (905) 735-2211/ 688-1380/ 384-9760/ 382-2383/ FAX (905) 788-3978.

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Tax cuts may hurt education

With the release of the Royal Commission on Learning and an expected spring provincial election, voters should be looking at who will preserve our educational system.

While many of the commission's recommendations are worthy of discussion, it remains to be seen which, if any, will become a reality. A new government could ignore the recommendations in order to be politically safe or "fiscally-responsible."

But which party will preserve the education system? For one big problem is that quality education will cost. And that alone rules out the Tories.

Tory leader Mike Harris has already promised to cut junior kindergarten as part of his 20 per cent tax cuts.

Tax cuts look good on the surface, but that 20 per cent could provoke damage we may never recover from.

As for the Liberals, heavens knows. I've heard so many promises, I'm not sure what to believe.

But at least the Liberals have given our current NDP MPPs some grist for the humor mill.

Minister without Portfolio in Education and Training Steve Owens (Scarborough-Centre MPP) was able to make some disgruntled public school teachers laugh last week when he said, "take a look on Wednesday, take a look on Thursday because (Liberal leader Lyn McLeod's promises) are bound to change."

And Labor Minister Shirley Coppen (Niagara South MPP), for all her recent troubles, has said of McLeod, "Whatever community she (McLeod) goes to, she puts her finger up to the air to see which way the wind's blowing."

But as college instructors are well aware, the NDP are not blameless. Many are still upset over the Social Contract. And while the government can say they were trying to preserve jobs, it doesn't completely wash.

During the next election, education is bound to be an important issue. Voters should take a hard look at the candidates and what they stand for.

It basically comes down to the lesser of three evils.

One longs for the days when MPPs had some education.

Willy Noiles

Go surfing for knowledge

About a year ago, I started writing about the Internet. At the time, Niagara College had just gotten its site running, and the Internet was virtually unheard of.

Now, the Internet is the buzzword of the day. Software companies are coming out with programs that give easier access to the Internet, colleges offer Internet courses and "free-nets" offer access to anyone with a computer and modem.

The Internet can provide users with any kind of information imaginable - from on-line books to new music, to road maps and hotel ratings for your favorite vacation spot.

One can even see the Rolling Stones in concert, or read "Omni" magazine on "the Net," or chat with someone on the other side of the world about any subject.

It's easy to see the future of communication is electronic. It is estimated the population of "cyberspace" - the virtual world of the Internet - is 25 million and is increasing at an astounding rate.

This vast network of people and information is not a fad or something available only to people with money to burn. The Internet is the wave of the future, and my advice is to hop on and go "surfing."

Mike Michaud

Letters to the Editor

SAC responds to slashing

Dear Editor:

In response to the Feb. 3 Letter to the Editor "Student slashes SAC."

It appears that William Webster has been misinformed as to what the Student Administrative Council (SAC) has control over.

Where was SAC in September while students were in line buying books? I was in that same line.

You also asked if last year's campaign promises were being kept. This is very difficult to do as election promises are forbidden.

Being vice-president social, I found the paragraph on the quality of entertainment particularly offensive. The consumption of alcohol is not promoted. Dave Rapelje and the Student Centre Management Committee worked long and hard on the new alcohol policy. You may also remember Alcohol Awareness Week (complete with a wrecked car in front of After Hours).

The "few mildly interesting . . . events" you spoke of include: comedians, lectures, movies, awareness programming and a Christmas Party for students and children to name a few. This is much more than "fostering a few rock and roll bands" as indicated. These "economically forbidding social events" are offered free of charge to students and guests.

The final two items I will comment on are honorariums and popularity contests.

I personally hold down two jobs and do not rely on SAC as a source of income. Your council members put in many long hours for the students, not personal gain. I also do not need to win a popularity contest with my own "little clique." My friends stand behind me, not because I'm on SAC, but for who I am. Being on council does not impress my friends. They are not that shallow.

Maybe next year Mr. Webster, when you write regularly for the Niagara News your attitude will change. Maybe then you will not be so desperate to see your name in print, at the risk of ruining the reputation of others.

Just for today, I will respect myself and what I stand for in case people like you don't.

Linda Shuart
Vice-President Social Affairs

Finding the fauna

Dear Editor:

Try as I may, I am unable to distinguish "fauna" from "flora" in the front page photograph (Niagara News, Jan. 27, 1995) re: Niagara Horticulture Centre blossoms.

Are the creatures camera shy?

Are they napping under the benches of flora?

Do they employ a sophisticated camouflage technique?

I shall consult my current "Where's Waldo?" expert.

Yours truly,
Dean Michel
Year 1 Journalism-Print

Editor's Note: We are informed by the photographer your second query is the answer.

Disruption in lab bytes

Dear Editor:

Cheers for Janice Poole's comments on individuals who disturb classes (Niagara News, Feb. 3, page 16). Everyone here deserves the respect of their classmates.

I would like to take Janice's comments out of the classrooms and into the computer labs.

All across campus there are many computer labs. People use these labs for school work and personal interests. It's bad enough when people play games in the labs. Playing games not only takes up a terminal but also computer time on the VAX, slowing everybody up.

It gets worse than just playing games. Some people insist on using the labs as a social setting. I am not saying it should be silent in a lab. Nor should no discussion occur with your friends. But the computer labs are places to do work. For this reason, comments should be kept down, kept clean, and not related to the current game being played.

So please show respect to others. Play games and socialize elsewhere. Thank you.

Brian Mantler
First-year Computer Programmer program

LETTERS TO EDITOR

Letter was 'dramatized'

Dear Editor:

I am responding to the Feb. 3 Letter to the Editor (Niagara News, page 16) "Imbecilic individuals interrupting class" by Journalism-Print program student Janice Poole.

I am angered that, not only a student, but a Journalism-Print student wrote a letter implying that a "whole class" was annoyed by individuals in a certain class.

Being a student in this class I know for a fact that we don't "regretfully await their arrival" or do we turn our "heads in unison as the door creaks open."

I feel the letter was very dramatized and exaggerated. I am, as well as other students, offended that we were all lumped together under the title "the class" but weren't even asked our opinions about the situation.

I'm sure there are others who agree that these students are annoying, but I know also that others don't feel the same way.

In my opinion, these so-called troublemakers do not bother me at all and have every right to state their opinions about issues. I feel the letter of complaint about these individuals wasting our time is wasting more class time. Our teacher now is irritated by every little movement or disruption, whereas before we were treated as adults. Since the complaint, we are continually being lectured about being inattentive and being disruptive everytime someone leaves the classroom for whatever reason. These lectures waste at least five minutes, if not more, of every class.

Since this usage of the word "we" has been used, referring to the whole of other classes, it would be greatly appreciated if those of us who don't agree with her be left out and allow us to speak for ourselves.

Jennifer Turner
First-year Journalism-Print program
January-Start

Desperately seeking zipper

By BRYAN BERNAT
Staff Writer

Gravity hates me.

When I'm walking down a crowded corridor my fly immediately opens to spite me. When, and only when, I try desperately to be cool and collective (trying to impress a lovely young lass, for instance) does *it* work it's evil.

I can't win; I've accepted this. My complete self-actualization has made things like this easier for me to accept, but I can't shake the feeling that this must be the result of extremely bad karma. If so, I am positive that I was a deviant offender, a potential danger to society - and a nudist in a past life.

My zipper is an extension of this, a reminder carried over by unseen universal powers to make life an incessantly perilous journey.

Not that I'm a bad person, or one with questionable morals . . .

My feelings for the zipper aren't completely bitter. The zipper, a perfect example of 20th century genius, saves time and frustration for millions of people yearly.

I just think the inventor didn't account for a major variable in proper function of the device - Mother Nature. I understand that this "pull" we call gravity that keeps us earthbound has the same pull on "inanimates."

Unfortunately, until an anti-gravity zipper comes to my attention, I will have to deal with cool breezes along my equator and embarrassing public displays; or until I decide on button-fly, whichever comes first.

Both sides of story not told

Dear Editor:

Seldom do I have the chance to read a letter that incites me to write a letter to the editor. But, in this case, the letter is so full of untruths, I feel both sides of the story should be told.

I am a student in the class Janice Poole refers to in the Feb. 3 issue of the Niagara News (page 16). I could also be considered one of the students who disrupt the class. To help the readers, the class in question is Introduction to Government.

I am very involved in politics and understand the political system. I have attended conventions and have learned that discussion and open conversation are the keys to a democratic society.

It is nearly impossible to maintain peace in a government class when we strongly agree or disagree with what is being said. In this particular class, we are not allowed to ask questions throughout the class. This is the only class in which I've ever had to deal with this situation and it is difficult not to ask relevant questions in class.

Both my father and grandfather were teachers. They are aware that certain things happen to disrupt a class.

Most of the teachers I respect the most are the ones who allow open discussion in class and even allow people to walk in and out of class. They have notes to refer back to and keep on topic.

My final thoughts revolve around why this letter was printed in the paper. I feel it is prejudiced. I have not seen this blatant dislike for any other course, other than broadcasting. And why? Because not only can we write, but we can speak and operate a radio station among other things.

We, as a whole, also understand that there will be distractions when we work. If you people need things repeated seven times maybe you're in the wrong business. I'm truly sorry it came down to this showdown. But hey, if you can't handle a simple government class with a few distractions, then maybe you should graduate from high school first.

Mark McNiven
First-year Broadcasting - Radio, Television and Film program

Won't you be my neighbor?

Dear Editor:

Honesty, by definition, infers conscientious, upright, just, sincere, virtuous behavior. Honestly speaking those qualities are not always possible. Nevertheless, my advice to those of you who encounter our *friendly* neighborhood police is, when all else fails, be honest.

Recently, I took part in some not so legal activity. And recently I could have been in some not so avoidable legal trouble. However illegal my activity may have been, it was within reason.

One scrupulous NRP (Niagara Regional Police) officer had the wherewithal to take into account the entire ramifications of my crazy not-so legal life. Thanks pal, I appreciate your consideration!

The purpose of this letter was to bring to light the fact that some people do believe in a "second chance." Also I wanted to let others know that on occasion the system works; in your favor as well as against you.

Dawn Swayze
Second-year Journalism-Print

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Nurse turned secretary bites into dental clinic

Secretary Linda Andrusyk begins her busy day in the dental clinic area.

Photo by Victoria Beck

By VICTORIA BECK
Staff Writer

Linda Andrusyk has come a long way since she taught herself to be a secretary.

Andrusyk said she wanted a new career. After 13 years as a registered nurse she was tired of the shift work and not having time to spend with her family, she said.

After her third child was born she didn't go back to being a nurse. She stayed home and for the next year taught herself how to use different computer programs.

She said she worked eight hours a day, just as if in a job. The programs were "not a problem to learn, they were easy."

Andrusyk, 41, has worked at Niagara College for four years, three part time and one full time.

She worked in the hospitality centre, business division, print centre and the bookstore, before becoming full time in the dental clinic area.

Andrusyk said she "types tests, exams, manuals, course information sheets and has things reproduced and does mail. One week out of every month I sort the mail for the second and third floors. And anything else they ask me to do.

"I'm supposed to be here 7 1/2 hours a day, but sometimes it goes to eight or nine. I work at home. I'm hooked up through modem. They know I'm working at home, because sometimes there are too many interruptions here."

Have break — will travel

By JOHN SAKARS
Staff Writer

With spring break fast approaching, many students will be migrating south for a few days of sand, surf and sun.

There are many vacation spots giving students a refuge from the cold, but which one do students most prefer?

'I don't think it matters to them, as long as the price is cheap' — Friesen

"I don't think it matters to them, as long as the price is cheap," said Tamara Friesen, a travel consultant with Atlantis Travel in St. Catharines.

She said the popularity of the location is directly proportional to the cost, with Florida remaining No. 1, followed by Cuba, the Dominican Republic and Mexico.

She said trips to Cuba, the Dominican Republic and Mexico average $700, $900 and $1,300 respectively, while a bus trip to Florida can cost as low as $240, including accommodations.

Sue Notarianni, a travel consultant with Delsan Travel in Niagara Falls, said Mexico has risen in popularity while Florida has lessened, because of the falling and rising costs of their respective currencies.

She added trips to Cuba and the Dominican Republic can be economical as far as all inclusives are concerned—packages including accommodations, food and drinks.

Lorraine Doucet, owner of Breakaway Travel Service in Welland, said bus trips to Florida are the most affordable for students travelling without the financial backing of their parents, but they're usually packed in five to a room.

Her advice to students on how to locate the best deals?

"The earlier you book, the better." She said students should book their vacations in September, as soon as they know when their vacation time will be in order to have the most choices available to them.

She said students often think they have to wait until they can afford the entire cost in order to book, when usually all that is needed is a deposit.

This year's spring break is the week of March 13.

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SATURDAY
ROCK & ROLL

Stephen smiles at the camera while Blake turns his back.

Photo by Heath Anderson

Blake and Stephen are taken by surprise. "Hey! What are you doing?"

Photo by Christine Rawcliffe

A day in the ECE Centre!

Sheri, a second-year Early Childhood Education student, baby Blake, and Darlene Manceni, staff member, enjoy play-time in the ECE Child Care Centre.

Photo by Karen Freeman

Baby Taylor is playing intensely while ignoring his own reflection in the mirror.

Photo by Heath Anderson

Sheri, second year ECE student, plays with Blake.

Photo by Christine Rawcliffe

SPORTS

Veteran Konrad determined

By SHELLEY HOLDEN
Staff Writer

"It's important for me to do my personal best when I step on the court," said Jim Konrad, a power hitter for the Niagara men's volleyball team.

Konrad, 24, was born in Windsor, but moved to Leamington at the age of four. He attended Leamington High School where he played volleyball for four years as a power and middle hitter.

In 1991, he attended Niagara College in the Electronics program and began playing volleyball for Ray Sarkis, the head coach of the men's team.

During the 1991-92 and 1992-93 seasons, Konrad won two bronze medals in the Ontario Colleges Athletic Association with Niagara.

"Konrad is a very intense and dedicated athlete," said Sarkis. "He is a team player who will do just about anything for his team."

Last season, Konrad was chosen to represent Niagara in the all-star game. He took the first half of this season off "to find out where he belonged in school and to work." Although he wasn't on the team roster, he practised with the team.

Currently, Konrad is in the Recreation Leadership program and is helping the Knights travel the path to the gold medal. A gold medal is not too far from Konrad's thoughts. "This is the last year for most of the starters and we want to give our all to win the gold," said Konrad.

Konrad said he's "a very competitive person" on and off the court. In the off season, he practises martial arts at a competitive level. In 1993, he won a bronze medal in the Ontario Grand Nationals in London, Ont. "I really enjoy competition, yet sometimes I get too intense and it works against me."

With the volleyball playoffs approaching, Konrad said "it's time to unite as a team." He said he feels Niagara has the best offence in Ontario, yet they need more heart and leadership.

He said they need cockiness and attitude in order to win the gold. "From here on in, it's do or die."

Sing Gen a pool shark

By ALLAN SHIELDS
Staff Writer

Mark Sing Gen, 24, won the first Niagara College Student Centre Pool Tournament of the year at After Hours.

The tournament began on Tuesday, Feb. 7, at 12:30 p.m. and consisted of over a dozen competitors.

Linda Shuart, Student Administrative Council (SAC) vice-president of social affairs, helped Trevor Ritchie, a second-year Law and Security Administration (LASA) student at the college, organize this tournament that has been a favorite.

Sing Gen, a second-year Human Resource Management student received $40 in cash, two T-shirts and a gymbag for his successful effort.

Anyone can enter the tournament with a $6 entry fee.

If you're a pool freak and want to try and prove your skills to others like Sing Gen, come on out and give it a shot.

To find out more about tournaments and dates, contact Shuart at 735-2211, ext. 7659.

Niagara men's V-ball born ready

By MICHAEL MUCAKI
Staff Writer

With the regular season over, the men's volleyball team has sights on the championship.

The Niagara College Knights finished with a 10-3 record and will be facing either Seneca College from North York or Centennial College from Scarborough in the quarter-finals here on Feb.18, time to be announced.

The new addition of Jim Konrad, and the return of Greg Heyder, has made the Knights a stronger team.

With the additions, the Knights have won all their matches including a thrilling five-game set in front of a full house at Redeemer College in Ancaster.

"We've become a lot better team with the additions of Heyder and Konrad," said Head Coach Ray Sarkis.

"This team has no weak spot on the court.

"In my eight years here, I feel this is our best chance to win the championship this year," said Sarkis.

> This team has no weak spot on the court.
>
> -Sarkis

Offensively Blair Cudmore continues to lead the league with 209 kills.

The three losses came before Christmas, as the team dropped both matches to second-place Cambrian College from Sudbury and lost on the road against first-place Humber College from Etobicoke.

Earlier in the year the Knights defeated Humber College in five sets at Niagara.

Kwiatkowski needs players

By CRAIG MORRISON
Staff Writer

The Niagara College women's volleyball team fell to Redeemer College in Ancaster on Feb. 1.

Redeemer defeated Niagara in four games 15-1, 15-9, 12-15 and 17-15.

On the plus side, the Knights *accumulated a record high of 21* blocks and 16 aces in the match.

Laurie Shipp had 10 blocks.

Starter Keira Kalckreath should be back in the lineup tonight as Niagara (4-9) hosts George Brown College (2-10) from Toronto at 8 p.m. in the college's gym.

Head coach John Kwiatkowski is looking for women players for the team.

Colleges visit Niagara

By SHELLEY HOLDEN
Staff Writer

Niagara College will be hosting an invitational men's volleyball tournament tomorrow at the college gym.

This round-robin tournament will see teams from St. Clair College in Windsor, Georgian College from Barrie, Redeemer College from Ancaster, Sheridan College from Oakville and Humber College from Toronto.

Each team will play two games against each other and the top two teams will advance to the finals. The finals will be the best out of three games, starting at about 6 p.m.

"This is a well-balanced tournament as far as talent goes," said Ray Sarkis, head coach for the men's volleyball team. "We want to do well in this tournament in preparation for the quarter-final match" on Saturday, Feb. 18 at the college.

The Knights play at:
9 a.m. vs. St. Clair College
11 a.m. vs. Georgian College
noon vs. Redeemer College
2 p.m. vs. Sheridan College
3 p.m. vs. Humber College

"If all goes well, we should be playing Sheridan in the finals," said Sarkis, who encourages all students to attend the tournament.

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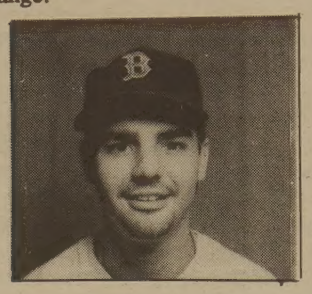
Hockey Knights tie game in dying seconds

By FRANK SERRA
Staff Writer

The Niagara Knights hockey team salvaged a draw last Saturday in a wild shoot-out that ended in a 9-9 tie against Sault College from Sault Ste. Marie.

With Niagara's net empty and just 32 seconds left, captain Dave Crane grabbed a loose puck and beat the Sault goalie from close range.



DAVE CRANE

"It felt good to get that goal, but when you score nine goals you should win the game," Crane said. "We can't let two points slip away like that. We're playing for a play-off spot."

Crane led the scoring with two goals and two assists. Eric Hill had one goal and three assists, while Rick Colangelo scored twice. Mike Matier had one goal and three assists, while Pat Skuta had one goal and two assists. Chris DiGiacomo and Matt Fuhrmann each had a goal.

Dave Boulton faced 44 shots from the high-flying Sault Cougars.

"It felt like everything they shot went in the net. I had a nightmare exactly like this, but I was naked," Boulton said after the game.

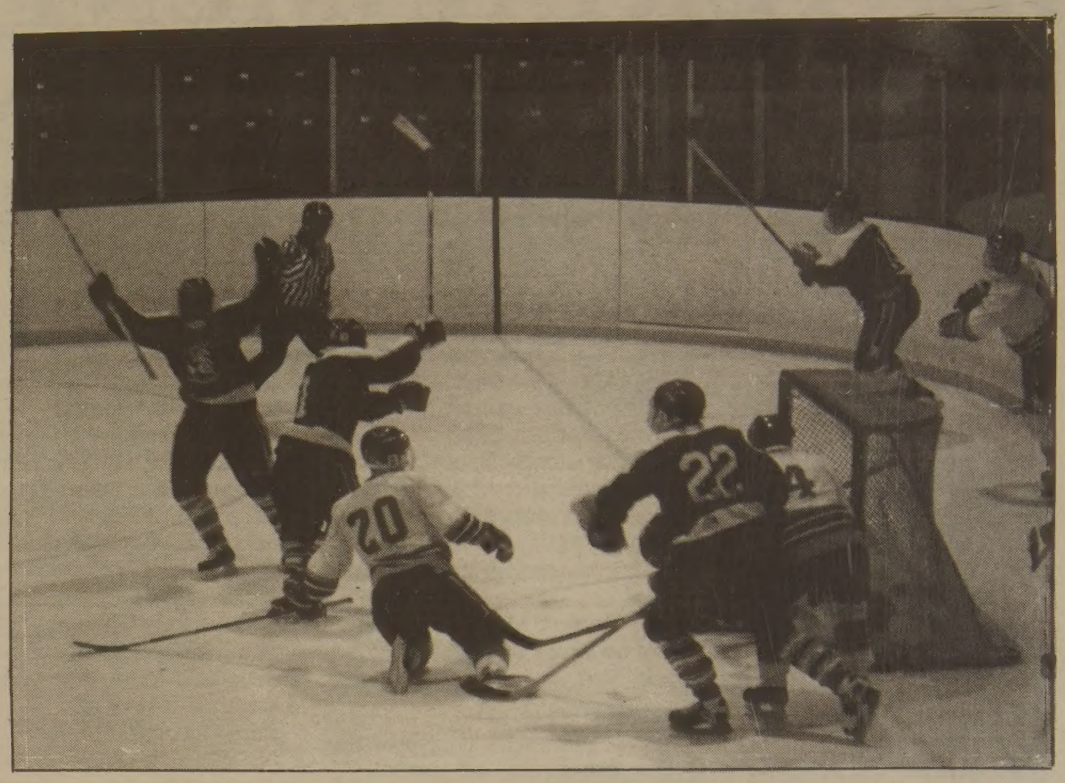
Defensive breakdowns by Niagara forced Boulton to fend for himself many times throughout the game.

Head coach Jim Beattie had mixed emotions about the tie.

"We were hoping for two points tonight, but it's pretty evident we're still struggling defensively. The effort was there, but mental lapses are still hurting us."

The coach said his team showed character in coming back and tying the game.

Next home game is tomorrow night at the Welland Arena when the Knights play Sir Sandford Fleming College from Peterborough at 7:30 p.m.



Knights celebrate as centre Dave Crane notches the tying goal with 32 seconds remaining in the game.

Photo by Frank Serra

Volleyball team in first place

By HEATH ANDERSON
Staff Writer

Niagara College's men's volleyball team has taken over first place in the West Division 1 standings. Niagara moved into first with strong performances against Georgian College from Barrie and Mohawk College from Hamilton. Niagara's Blair Cudmore has fallen to second in the scoring leaders.

The Niagara women's volleyball team is still hanging on to eighth place after a couple games against two tough teams. The team's record has slipped to four wins and eight losses.

Brooms and rocks will be the weapons of choice as Niagara College hosts a qualifying tournament in curling.

The curling tournament, which started yesterday and ends today, is being held at the Welland Curling Club at 497 King St. in Welland. The curling finals will be at Algonquin College in Ottawa on Feb. 24 and 25.

In women's division 1 basketball, the Niagara Knights are tied for fourth place with a record of six and five. The team is being led by Kelly Smith with an average of 12.3 points a game.

The men's team bounced back after being badly beaten by Humber College in Etobicoke to beat Mohawk College of Hamilton and keep their position in the standings. The team is in fifth place with a record of two wins and three losses.

Niagara's Mike Hurley and Adriaan Knaap have increased their place in the scoring leaders' race.

On the ice, Niagara's hockey team is holding on to the last play-off spot in the division with a record of four wins, five losses and one tie.

Women's Knights battle back for win

By DAVE CRANE
Staff Writer

The Niagara College women's basketball team grabbed another victory beating Redeemer College 66-50 in Ancaster on Feb. 3.

The win marked the second time in seven days that Niagara battled back from a first half deficit to get a win.

"I told the girls at halftime to just keep playing the same way they did in the first half. We were in control but just couldn't get the ball to fall in for us," said coach Todd Stevens.

Fortunately for the Knights, the ball began to find the bottom of the hoop in the second half and they cruised to a 16-point victory.

"It was probably the girls' most disciplined effort of the year and the 16-point spread hides the fact we totally controlled this game," said Stevens.

Scoring for the Knights were DiPietro with 21 points, Kelly Smith, 14, McLaren, 11, Shelley Holden, nine, Shelley Doncaster, seven, and Bonnie Berger and Tiffany Panchen off the bench with two each.

The Knights' regular season record stands at 7-6, good for fourth place.

On Jan. 31, the Knights dropped a game against Fanshawe College 68-40 at home.

McLaren had 11 points and DiPietro, nine.

In other action, the Knights hosted an exhibition game against D'Youville College from Buffalo, N.Y., on Feb. 4.

The college gym was filled with more than a hundred spectators who enjoyed an exciting game that wasn't decided until late in the second half. Niagara won 56-52.

Diana DiPietro #44 sets the Niagara College Knights offence against the Fanshawe Falcons on Jan. 31 in the Niagara gym.

Photo by Dave Crane

Derek Flindall, #4, attempts a shot against Fanshawe on Jan. 31. See story page 10.

Photo Michael Mucaki

Niagara hosts curling championship

Niagara College will host the Ontario Colleges Athletic Association (OCAA) curling championship qualifiers in men's and women's play.

Niagara has been chosen to be the host school for the Regionals tournament, which started yesterday and concludes today at the Welland Curling Club on King Street.

The Niagara men's team consists of Al Charuk (skip), Jeff Reid, Terry Fleury and Jason Stelmaschuk.

Niagara will be hosting teams from Seneca College from North York, Mohawk College from Hamilton and Georgian College from Barrie for the men's event.

In the women's event, the teams are from Mohawk, Seneca and Georgian.

Niagara's mixed curling team has automatically received a bye to the provincials as a result of only two teams entered in the event.

The provincial championships will be held Feb. 24 thru 26 at Algonquin College in Ottawa.

ENTERTAINMENT

Bob Marley's legend lives on

By WILLIAM BECK
Staff Writer

Get up stand up. Stand up for your rights. Only a man like Bob Marley could live up to these lyrics. His own, from the song *Get up, Stand up.*

On Monday, Feb. 6, 1995 the world remembered the birthday of the immortal Bob Marley who would have turned 50.

He was born Robert Nesta Marley in Nine Mile, Jamaica in 1945 to Cedella Malcolm. His native-born mother was 18. His white father, a sea captain, Norval Sinclair Marley was in his 50's.

When Marley was five, he was sent to the capital city of Kingston to receive a proper education. Instead of an education Marley was abandoned to the unforgiving streets of Kingston and forced to beg to stay alive.

Determined, Marley overcame these hardships and, as a teenager, decided to express his inner feelings through music.

He began ghetto confreres to voice his opinions and eventually met musician Bunny Livingston [Confreres are fellow members of a fraternity or profession]. Through Livingston he met other musicians, Peter (Tosh) Mackintosh and Beverly Kelso. They produced their first Jamaican hits *Judge Not* and *Do You Still Love Me?* in 1962. Thus was born The Wailers and a legend.

Despite earning three pounds ($6 Canadian) a week, Marley and The Wailers were adamant in bringing their music to the people.

After two lineup changes, Marley went on to record numerous albums under the Island label. The list includes: *Catch A Fire* (1973), *Natty Dread* (1975), *Bob Marley and The Wailers Live* (1975), *Rastaman Vibration* (1976), *Exodus* (1977), *Survival* (1979) *Uprising* (1980) and *Confrontation* (1983). Dozens of compilations have been made of Marley's music as well.

Marley incorporated social, religious and racial issues into his music, stressing the need for unity and equality among people.

Marley's music was also quite controversial, as he took a more militant stand in his music near the end of his career. Many attempts were made on his life at his Kingston home. It was cancer that took a stubborn Marley who refused treatment. Marley died in Miami, Fla., May 11, 1981.

Artist's work accessible

By MARK BROUWER
Staff Writer

The work of Carla Whiteside, a Quebec City artist, should be immediately accessible, not for the social aspects she covers in her panels, but for the materials she uses.

Whiteside, whose collection *Les verites du XXe Siecle (Truths from the XXth Century)*, is on display at Niagara Artists' Centre (NAC), has been working with the gypsum panels almost exclusively for the past two years.

"There's an element of chance inherent in using the material," Whiteside says. "I'm not looking for permanence."

Whiteside makes use of text and visual representations resembling land masses on the gypsum panel to evoke a response that parallels the two.

She was invited to present as part of NAC's program *Territiories and Antagonisms: Dialogues on Differences.*

"Text is as important as image; with it a parody is revealed."

She says she does not know what motivates her, but when she starts a piece she has a specific question to resolve. She says she tries to maintain an integrity with the materials she utilizes. "It's gypsum board and clay. I don't try to make it anything else," she says.

Along with a hand-out describing the varied experiences of Carla Whiteside, patrons are given a sheet, offering possible translations of the French text. She says a specific translation for the text would defeat the parameters of the work.

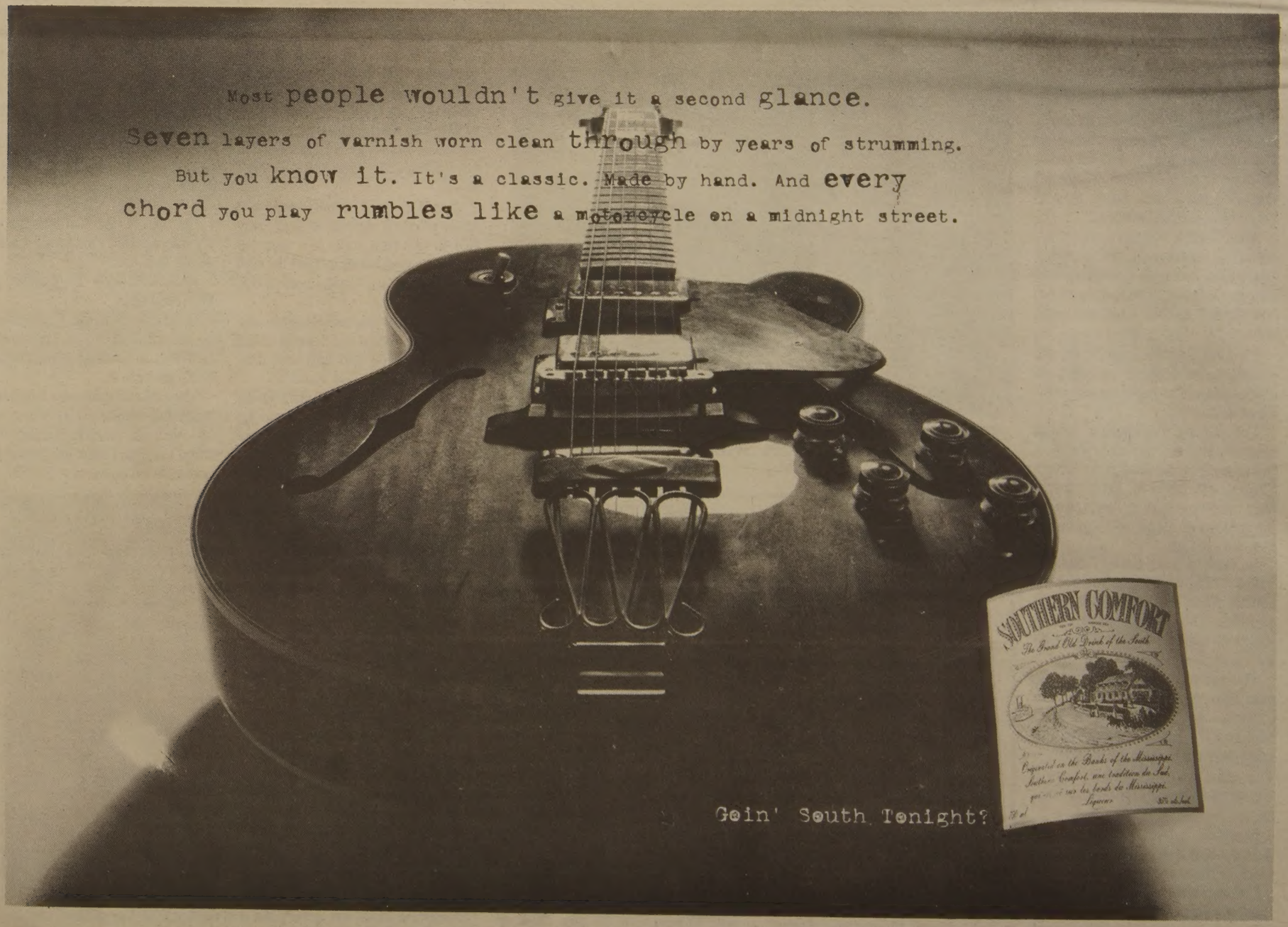
One piece *RISQUE DU PLAISIR*, shows two land masses, one that appears to be tentatively reaching toward the other, paralleling the mood expressed in the text. Another called *LA CERTITUDE CONDITIONNE L'OBSERVATION* shows a bold, crisp land mass that appears to lift from the panel because of an almost shadow-like use of the layered materials.

Because of the differences between French and English, Whiteside's titles are readable in either direction, for example *L'OBSERVATION CONDITIONNE LA CERTITUDE.*

White says she is preoccupied with territories "how one places themselves within the framework or web."

She says a panel can take between 50 to 60 hours to produce and she has no set schedule for that part of her work.

Her collection will be on display until Feb. 17 at the NAC, 235 St. Paul St., St. Catharines.


Most people wouldn't give it a second glance.
Seven layers of varnish worn clean through by years of strumming.
But you know it. It's a classic. Made by hand. And every
chord you play rumbles like a motorcycle on a midnight street.
SOUTHERN COMFORT
The Grand Old Drink of the South
Goin' South Tonight?

Knights win a must game

By MICHAEL MUCAKI
Staff Writer

Niagara men's basketball team held Lambton College to 21 points in the second half in the 75-58 victory in Sarnia on Feb. 4.

"It was a game we had to win to keep our playoff hopes alive," said head coach Randy Conlon.

Derek Flindall and Mike Hurley led the Knight's scoring with 23 points each.

Niagara had solid performances from Sergio Vercasi with 10 points, John Wark with nine and Frank Keltos with eight.

On Feb. 3, the Knights travelled to Windsor to face the St. Clair College Saints. The Knights lost 68-61.

The Knights were held to just 19 points in the first-half.

"We shot very poorly in the first-half. We hit less than 20 per cent in the first-half," said Conlon.

Niagara managed only 50 per cent at the free-throw line.

Mike Hurley led the Knights with 21 points, while John Wark added 10 points.

Earlier in the week, the Knights hosted Fanshawe College Falcons in a thrilling game that ended in double-overtime on Jan. 31.

The Knights lost the game 87-82 after beating Fanshawe in January 75-58.

"It was a tough game to lose at home," said Conlon.

The Knights sent the game to the first overtime when Mike Hurley drained a three-point shot with 31 seconds remaining.

The Falcons had a chance to win it with less than 10 seconds left when they went to the foul-line, but only managed to hit one of the two shots to tie the game.

The Knights sport a 3-5 record and are battling for a playoff spot.

Niagara's next game is tomorrow against Mohawk College in Hamilton at 8 p.m.

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150 Janet St.,Port Colborne.
Shows 8 p.m. with Sunday matinees at 2 p.m.
No show Monday/Tuesday. **Tickets $12**
available by calling Fort Erie 871-2387 or
Port Colborne 835-1173.

Job bank coming to St. Catharines

Niagara College students won't have to look far for job opportunities.

The Canada Employment Centre in St. Catharines has donated a "Job Bank" to the college's St. Catharines campus. A computer terminal will allow students and other individuals to scan the jobs available in the surrounding area. The computer will give information about jobs and how to apply.

The job bank will be open 24 hours and is on the second floor of the St. Catharines campus.

The computer will open in a couple of weeks.

♥♥♥♥♥♥♥

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to my beautiful wife,
LYN DUNLAP

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Your sexy Husband
STEVE SR.

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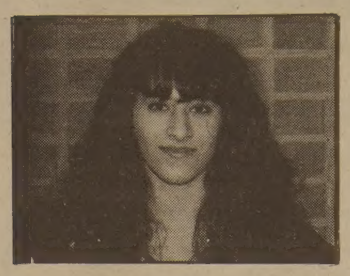
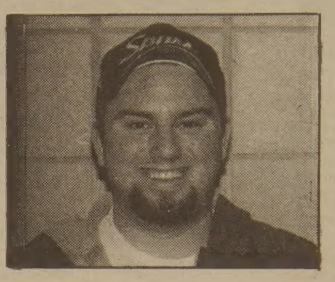
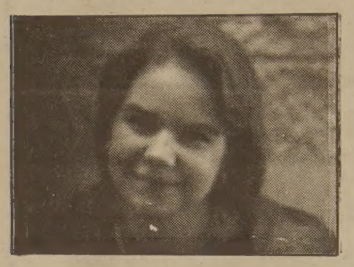


What does Valentine's Day mean to you?

"Valentine's Day means being together with the person you love," says **Zina Damiano**, a first-year Human Relations program student.

"It means for me time to spend with my girlfriend who I don't see much of," says **Brett Matte**, a first-year Broadcasting-Radio, Television and Film (BRTF) program student.





"I never thought Valentine's Day was just a day for couples. It is a day to spend with your friends," says **Jennifer Laframboise**, a first-year Interior Design program student.

Valentine's Day facts

By VICTORIA BECK
Staff Writer

The mention of Valentine's Day brings thoughts of hearts and flowers to most people.

St. Valentine is called the patron saint of lovers. He was martyred on Feb. 14. Feasts are celebrated on this day. This day is not observed in the Roman-rite calendar.

The religious significance of the day is now overshadowed by the nonreligious customs associated with it.

Lovers exchange affectionate messages and gifts on this day. It is believed to be a day when birds begin to mate.

Once people began to exchange messages and gifts the word 'valentine' came to be applied to both persons and their tokens of affection.

Different authorities believe Valentine's Day began in various ways. One belief was that spring is the time for lovers. Another traced back to an ancient Roman festival called Lupercalia. And lastly a connection with one or more saints of early Christian church.

In the United States and Canada younger school children exchange valentines with friends. Older children may hold parties and dances.

And the adults may choose to send flowers, candy or other "love" gifts to their valentine.

In Europe, British children sing special songs for candy, fruit, or money. In Britain and Italy, some unmarried women stand by their windows watching for a man to pass. They believe that the first man they see, or someone who looks like him, will marry them within a year.

In Denmark, Danish men send a gaekkebrev (joking letter) without signing his name. There is a dot for each letter in his name. If the woman who receives it guesses his name she gets an egg from him at Easter.

Esther Howland, of Worcester, Mass., became one of the first manufacturers of valentines. In 1847, after her father brought back valentines from England that she didn't like she made her own. She expanded her business into a $100,000-a-year enterprise, but remained a spinster her entire life.

The St. Valentine's Day Massacre occurred in Chicago in 1929. Four gangsters, disguised as policemen, shot down seven members of a rival gang.

♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥ Happy Valentine's Day! ♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥

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